

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 OMB-01
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NEAE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05 MCT-01 /084 W
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O 191105Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0462
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR PDEV EG IS XF
SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO ISRAELI ANSWERS

SUMMARY. PRESS REACTION TO ISRAELI ANSWERS FINDS THEM
"VAGUE" AND A "PROCRASTINATION". ANSWERS SILENT ON
FUTURE OF WEST BANK/GAZA AFTER FIVE YEARS AND HOW
ISRAELIS SEE SOLUTION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. ANSWERS
SEEN AS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF BEGIN "INTRANSIGENCE". NEVER-
THELESS, EGYPT WILL PERSIST IN PEACE EFFORTS; INTRAN-
SIGENCE CANNOT LONG ENDURE IN FACE OF "FACTS OF HISTORY".
GOE-INSPIRED REACTION RESTRAINED BUT UNDERCURRENT OF
STRONG DISAPPOINTMENT CLEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. REPLY "VAGUE"/"PROCRASTINATION". AHRAH EDITORIAL
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JUNE 19 COMMENTS THAT ANSWERS, AFTER MORE THAN TWO
MONTHS OF DELIBERATION, CHARACTERIZED BY "PROCRASTINATION".
ISRAEL NOT ABLE TO SPECIFY WHAT FUTURE OF WEST BANK AND
GAZA WILL BE AT END OF FIVE YEARS. ANSWERS WERE ALSO
SILENT ON END OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND GAVE NO PICTURE
OF HOW PALESTINIAN PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED, WHICH IS HEART
OF THE MATTER.

2. ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. AHRAM SEES NO CHANGE IN ISRAEL'S INTERPRETATION OF 242, DESPITE FACT "WHOLE WORLD" BELIEVES 242 APPLIES ON ALL FRONTS. BEGIN STAND REPRESENTS NOT ONLY REJECTION OF THE CURRENT CHANCE FOR PEACE BUT ALSO "CHALLENGE" TO THE AMERICAN STAND WHICH CLEARLY AND FRANKLY STATES ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM ALL FRONTS AND ACCEPT 242. GUMHURIYYA COMMENTS THAT BEGIN'S REPLY IS "NEW LINK" IN SERIES OF "INTRANSIGENT" STANCES AGAINST PEACE EFFORTS AND ONLY PROVES ANEW BEGIN'S PERSISTENCE IN A POLICY REJECTED BY WHOLE WORLD, EVEN BY "LARGE SECTORS OF THE ISRAELI PEOPLE AND ISRAELI CABINET ITSELF."

3. EGYPT TO CONTINUE PEACE EFFORTS. GUMHURIYYA COMMENT ADDS EGYPT DETERMINED TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH PEACE "DESPITE BEGIN'S ATTEMPTS" UNTIL A JUST AND PERMANENT SOLUTION IS REACHED WHICH SECURES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND SECURES THE PALSTINIAN PEOPLES' RIGHTS "FOREMOST AMONG WHICH IS THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE ON THEIR LAND." AHRAM EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT DESPITE ISRAELI "PROCRASTINATION", BEGIN'S POLICY CANNOT LONG ENDURE IN FACE OF "FACTS OF HISTORY". ISRAEL MUST ACCOMMODATE ITSELF "TO THE NEW FACTS OF OUR WORLD, WHETHER BEGIN IS IN POWER OR NOT."
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4. WEIZMAN'S DISSENT. IN ADDITION THEMES OF VAGUENESS AND PROCRASTINATION, FRONT PAGES HIGHLIGHT FACT THAT WEIZMAN VOTED AGAINST MAJORITY, JOINING THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE DMC. TEXT OF ISRAELI ANSWER CARRIED IN BOTH ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

5. COMMENT. PRELIMINARY REACTION REFLECTS OBVIOUS GOE-INSPIRED RESTRAINT, BUT THERE IS CLEARLY STRONG FEELING OF DISAPPOINTMENT HERE. EILTS

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